



METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION

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Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2009

Vice Chair Marshall Loring called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. Members in attendance: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Joe Bischofberger, Eleanor Bloch, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Rich Hedges, Dolores Jaquez, Julio Lacayo, Suzanne Levine, Dennis Trenten, Thora Worrell, and Craig Yates. Excused: Chair Paul Branson, Joshua Miele, and Marc Roddin.

Ms. Vogler announced that Mr. Doug Weir had resigned from the committee.

Audience Member Self-introductions

Clarence Fischer
Naomi A., ACTIA
Andrea Feit Duggan

Public Comment from Audience Members

Mr. Fischer noted that his last name was misspelled in the September minutes. He also returned to express his concerns over the capability of TransLink[®] to accommodate attendants who must travel with disabled persons. He mentioned that he received an e-mail from a TransLink[®] staff member who told him that it was a regional fare policy issue. He noted that the fare policy was unfair. Ms. Vogler assured him that the issue would be resolved, but it would take time because MTC has no jurisdiction over regional fare policy.

Minutes

The minutes as corrected by Mr. Fischer were unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Mr. Yates.

Member Updates

Ms. Levine announced that the City of San Francisco has a phone service — 311 — that allows visitors and residents to call the City and report where curb ramps are needed most.

Mr. Burnett announced that the second Solano County Elderly and Disabled Transportation Summit will be held on October 30. The Committee congratulated Mr. Burnett for the article in the Contra Costa Times that praised him for his work in addressing senior and disabled issues in transportation.

Ms. Abelson announced that her city passed a half-cent sales tax and the money is exclusively for road repairs.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant reported that Craig Goldblatt of MTC staff gave an update on STP/CMAQ programming for the new transportation authorization act. There was also a presentation by Sherman Lewis regarding price mechanism and transportation choices.

Subcommittee Reports

Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee co-chair Hedges announced that EDAC's transit oriented development (TOD) policy was adopted by the Planning Committee in September. Mr. Loring thanked MTC staff for their help in creating the policy. Ms. Vogler congratulated subcommittee members for their hard work, and noted that members would now meet with MTC planning staff to move the policy forward.

Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee chair Burnett noted that the subcommittee wrapped up work on the third cycle of the New Freedom Program, and will work to prepare for the next cycle. The subcommittee will also be working on a draft letter from EDAC to Commissioners to actively pursue funding for emergency preparedness. There was also a presentation by Quest, a non-profit organization in Santa Clara County, at the subcommittee meeting in October. Mr. Trenten noted that Quest has the best computerized outreach system. Mr. Loring asked if a written description of the program was available. Mr. Burnett will ask the organization for a description.

Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee Chair Grant said that their work is focused on the accessibility of SWITRS data and outreach for the pedestrian safety summit scheduled for January 29, 2010.

Chair's Report

Vice Chair Loring asked to save the date of November 3, per Chair Branson, for the Mobility Management Group and Marin Transit meeting in San Rafael regarding mobility management. He announced that the advisory committee structure plan will be presented at the October 9 Legislation Committee meeting and encouraged members to attend.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Vogler announced that the Joint Advisors workshop regarding the advisory committee structure was rescheduled for October 28. Mr. Yates asked when the Commission would take action on the item. Ms. Vogler said possibly in November. She also mentioned that Mr. Goldblatt was available for questions regarding STP/CMAQ programming.

Ms. Lara mentioned that she is working to create a policy on accessible information.

Legislative Report

Rebecca Long of MTC staff reported that the Commission on the 21st Century Economy delivered their report to the Governor. The Commission recommends an overhaul of the state's tax system. She noted that the recommendations would not affect transportation.

She reported that the California State Supreme Court denied the Governor's appeal of the California Transit Association (CTA) lawsuit, which is a big victory for CTA. This means some money will be coming back to the area, but how the money comes back remains to be seen. On the federal level, she said that Congress passed an extension of SAFETEA-LU and a one-month extension of appropriations. In addition, the Senate introduced their version of cap-and-trade legislation.

Lastly, she mentioned that she will be working with the Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee members on creating legislation for their recently approved accessible townhomes policy.

Member comment:

Mr. Hedges asked if a copy of the Court's decision was available. Ms. Long said she would e-mail the information. Ms. Abelson asked if the tax system overhaul would remove all sales tax. Ms. Long said only state sales tax would be removed, all others would stay in place.

New Freedom Program Update

Kristen Mazur of MTC staff gave an update on the third cycle of the New Freedom Program. She noted that the application evaluation panel completed their review and made recommendations on which projects should receive funding. She said that as soon as staff makes the final decision, she will e-mail the results to EDAC members. Ms. Bloch thanked Ms. Mazur for her help on the evaluation panel.

Other Business, Next Meeting

Ms. Feit Duggan suggested that EDAC's public comment period be moved to the end of the meeting so that the public could comment on items presented at the meeting. Ms. Abelson noted that most people do not like to wait until the end of a meeting. Ms. Braxton said that the public should be allowed to comment on any item that is on the agenda. Mr. Hedges said that a second comment period could be added at the end of the meeting. Ms. Levine also suggested having two comment periods. Ms. Jaquez said that this is something that needs to be discussed further. Ms. Braxton noted that the Brown Act already allows the public to comment on any item that is on the agenda.

The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.